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Amendment

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cont'd

14. (amended) [A] The method of claim 17 for treating diabetes comprising introducing a gas stream containing [a] the composition [according to Claim 1] into the nose, wherein the systemically active drug is insulin [into the nose].

17. (amended) A method for systemically delivering an active drug to a mammal, the method comprising:

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a) providing a composition comprising a plurality of bioadhesive microspheres comprising a material selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, proteins, and synthetic polymers, wherein the polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of a starch, a dextran, a hyaluronic acid, a gellan gum and pectin and the protein is selected from the group consisting of gelatin, albumin, and collagen, and an active drug selected from the group consisting of proteins and peptides, and non-protein drugs selected from the group consisting of antibiotics, anesthetics, vasoconstrictors, cardiotonics, vasodilators, antiseptics, bone metabolism controlling agents, hypotensives, sedatives, anti-tumour agents, anti-inflammatory agents, anti-histaminic agents, anti-allergic agents, and antitussive-expectorant agents, wherein at least 90 wt % of the microspheres in the composition have a diameter between 0.1 μm and 10 μm ; and

b) administering the composition to a mammal intranasally thereby to systemically delivery a therapeutically effective amount of the drug to the mammal.